



DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION'S

Economic Sustainability Plan Framework Study

Community Meeting Summary - Round One

September 21, 2010 - Antioch (Antioch Police Department) - 300 L Street - 6-8:00 p.m.

The following meeting summary was from the fifth of five community meetings scheduled in the Delta to gather public input on the creation of the framework for the upcoming Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP). The Delta Protection Commission will complete the ESP by July 2011. The adopted plan will include information and recommendations that will be used for future planning efforts, including the Delta Stewardship Council's policies regarding the socioeconomic sustainability of the Delta region. The ESP will address multiple issues relating to the Delta's economic sustainability, including public safety and flood protection, recreation and tourism, agriculture and business, and infrastructure.

OVERVIEW

The community meeting was held in Antioch on Tuesday, September 21, 2010 from 6-8:00 p.m. Approximately 15 community members attended the meeting. DPC Staff was in attendance, along with the ESP Framework planning team.

PRESENTATION

Mike Machado, Matt Kowta and Seann Rooney presented the project to the group, outlining past legislation (that calls for the preparation of the ESP) and the project timeline. Also reviewed were the role and history of the commission, the scope of the current planning effort and some preliminary economic data. The presentation was followed by a 40 minute discussion with participants. The discussion concluded and community members were encouraged to provide comments after the large group session. The event concluded around 8:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION

The following comments were offered during the large group discussion:

- Less water - less economy (where/what is the balance?)
- Delta farmers should continue to adapt/change to address marketplace
- How does more water moving south affect fresh water flow?
- How do we plan for the changing Delta economy?
- People leave the bay area to come to the Delta (freshwater, boating and fishing)
- Agri-tourism (get people out to the farms)
- Operation of intake/industry needs (C&H)

(Notes - Continued)

- In Antioch residents save money because of access to water (would fees go up?) - save \$25,000 per day when able to take water from Delta, but conditions only allow this part of the time
- Historic industries now gone (paper mill, fish cannery) because of changing Delta environmental conditions
- Access to water is permitted (based on historical use)
- Power plants do take less water as it becomes more salty (reclaimed water)
- Water source can be unreliable
- If water is taken from the Delta will state continue to support/maintain levees etc. (state would have less interest)
- Continued education important to share details of planning effort
- Levees are important for the economy
- Salt water- financial impact on boating (barnacles/worms, harbors and an increase in boat maintenance)
- Will fishing remain viable? (on the decline)
- Updated data is critical (is current data available?)
- More business in lower Delta may change the dependence of San Francisco (bay area), etc. for jobs in the future
- Water impacts this (fuel costs, etc...)
- Policies on growth (where it can occur) - population rise
- Many developments not complete (lots of "lots"/homes/sub-divisions not finished in Brentwood area)
- Salinity is affecting cattle ranches - ranches use "sub-irrigation" (salt affects feed, employees, health of cattle)
- Ranching is a lifestyle and Ag has been family operation for many people in the Delta for long time – water for many is there (sub-irrigated) and no irrigation beyond that
- Cost of access to water would change operations viability
- Riparian rights are key
- Ag base (tax base) supports local agencies
- Does increased salinity limit types of industry?
- Conflicts with access (trash, vandalism, encounters, etc..)
- Strong goods/services in the Pittsburg/Antioch area
- Possibly more recreation up river if there was more to support boating and if services become more scarce there could be impacts
- Restricted access to waterways will impact Coast Guard and boating
- Increase rate of fuel (distances to travel to access restricted areas), will make it less attractive for people to use and taking longer
- Antioch ferry service being explored (3 locations) for disaster preparedness, tourism and a role in transportation system (multi-modal connector)
- Department of Boating & Waterways supports Delta with grants - the more users, the more grant money (don't want this to change)
- Boating infrastructure (not just a northern California issue)
- Plan and decisions need to keep "California" in mind
- Awareness and marketing important (to show what Delta has to offer)
- Education of the public is key (Delta is complex)
- Decision makers/planners need to see "all Delta areas"



For more information on the Economic Sustainability Plan Framework Study please visit the Delta Protection Commission's website at www.Delta.ca.gov. Meeting agendas (same for all five meetings), summaries, presentations and other information has been posted on the DPC website (www.delta.ca.gov). Please contact DPC staff at (916) 776-2290 for more information.